

Labor News Bits

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News & Information

Governor McGreevey invests in workforce to build strong economy

To ensure the Garden State's continued economic growth, the McGreevey administration has made the latest and best training available to New Jersey workers. Since taking office, the McGreevey administration has invested more than \$36.2 million in workforce training grants, including literacy grants, to train more than 60,000 workers.

Governor McGreevey's "Five-Year Economic Plan" includes: creating 200,000 new jobs and training 150,000 workers for the jobs of tomorrow, relocating or expanding 500 businesses in New Jersey, attracting \$6 billion in new public/private investments, and helping 300,000 businesses get started in the Garden State.

The McGreevey administration will accomplish these goals through fiscal responsibility, investing in schools, investing in roads/transportation, investing in our ports, and financial incentives through programs such as the Business Employment Incentive Program.

Commissioner Kroll awards customized training grants

New Jersey Department of Labor Commissioner Albert G. Kroll announced that a customized training grant has been awarded to Consolidated Container in Elizabeth and training grant applications have been approved for Kason Corporation in Milburn and All Technics Products in Little Ferry.

Consolidated Container, a manufacturer of plastic bottles, will match their customized training grant award of \$95,200 with \$75,560 in company funds. The grant will be used to train 137 employees and 16 new hires in courses including statistical process control, supervisory skills, English as a Second Language, as well as industry specific technology courses.

Kason Corporation, a manufacturing company, has been approved for a \$48,800 customized training grant. With a matching company contribution of \$48,209, Kason will train 50 employees, including five expected new hires in lean manufacturing, customer service, and computer software skills.

All Technics Products, Inc., a manufacturer and distributor of computer monitors, has been approved for a customized training grant award for \$22,000. The company will contribute \$16,072 to train their 18 employees in ISO 9001:2000 concepts for ISO certification. With many of the company's customers demanding that their suppliers be ISO certified, ISO registration will provide an essential element for All Technics Products, Inc. to secure business from large companies, increase sales with current customers, and greatly enhance business with international companies.

Commissioner Kroll announces April job growth numbers

Jobs grew by 9,100 in April, reaching a seasonally adjusted level of 4,023,500, Department of Labor Commissioner Albert G. Kroll announced on May 24, 2004.

New Jersey's unemployment rate

increased slightly to 5.3 percent in April from 5.2 percent in March. For the past twelve months, the state's jobless rate has been below the national average, which was 5.6 percent in April.

"This is another month of strong job growth, building on our record of leading the Northeast in job creation," Kroll said. "The McGreevey administration will continue to make the right investments in workers and businesses to ensure that our record of job growth will continue."

The largest over-the-month gain occurred in the professional and business supersector, which moved up 5,700 to 587,900; this supersector has added 12,300 jobs during the past two months. The increase reflected continued strength in the administrative and support services industry (which includes employers in activities such as general management, personnel administration, building services, and employment services). Sizeable supersector gains were noted in "other services," up 1,900 to 155,000; financial activities up 1,700 to 284,100, largely due to improvement at finance and insurance firms; and construction, up 1,600 to 161,600.

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